

Jewish Sukkot is first of fall events



The Jewish Sukkot is among the first of fall holiday events that many people observe. BPA's Jewish Resource Group this year set up a sukkah outside headquarters for the observance in mid-October.

Sukkot is the Jewish harvest festival held annually around the world for millennia. Also known as the Feast of Booths, it commemorates the 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the desert with Moses. It is the first holiday after the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur.

The sukkah, or booth, is a symbolic reminder of the frail huts the people built and lived in during

Members of the Jewish Resource Group finish the sukkah they built near the headquarters west entrance. (Left to right) Neil Goodman, Steve Dunne and Cherilyn Harris put up decorations for the Sukkot event booth.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

Fall, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, end of a century and millennium and start of a new year – special times all. From traditions that date back many generations, people around the world have celebrated many holiday events in this last quarter of our calendar year.

Beginning with the end of harvest to the start of the new year, we celebrate our bounty, observe special religious times, travel to see family and friends, or just set aside time to relax and enjoy. One practice that seems to be common in all cultures and in all the observances is sharing.

People give of their bounty to less fortunate neighbors in need. They donate to charities that serve the poor. And they volunteer – in much larger numbers than at other times.

Many work groups at BPA find different ways to help the poor and needy at this time of year. Some put up giving trees, others put gifts under trees at malls and elsewhere. Some sponsor families or adopt a care center for the holidays.

This month, volunteers will work at soup kitchens and dining halls to help serve holiday meals to the homeless and poor. Others will help the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul and other groups pack food boxes to deliver to homes. Some will collect food for the Oregon Food Bank and shelters, or work with the local police bureau Sunshine Division to collect new toys for tots.

The variety and occasions are as numerous as the days. And BPA employees give in as many ways with their talent, time and treasure.

One of the biggest charity events for BPA folks is the annual Santa party at the Ross Complex. Dozens of employees will buy toys, clothing and other items for needy children from the East Vancouver Child Care Center.

All times are good for giving

The Ross folks hold a lunch hour party for the kids. Santa arrives in a sleigh-locomotive on wheels. Employee elves help Santa distribute the huge bundles to each boy and girl. Others serve cookies and punch.

But BPA employees don't just give gifts and money to help over the holidays. Throughout the year, they volunteer in civic and charity events. And raise funds and give in other ways to help the needy. This is a good time to mention some BPA volunteers for current "cases of caring."

Numerous employees got kids' names and lists for the Santa Party at a mid-November potluck of the Ross Canyon Club at the warehouse. At their spring potluck this year, the group gave two \$500 checks – one to the YWCA sexual assault program and the other to a Headstart program for infants and toddlers.

The Ross employees don't just do everything themselves. They solicit other donors and participants to make it a real community event. Thus the American Legion provides the Santa locomotive and Safeway donates the treats for the Santa party.

The group also finds help for its fund-raisers. Tina Conover wrote a letter to thank Elaine Low for the chicken salad her Kitchen Goddess Café donated for the spring potluck.

their long sojourn. A true sukkah must be shaky, while at the same time sturdy enough to stand up to the wind.

The roof is made of locally grown vegetation, layered densely enough for shade but lightly enough to see the stars through the ceiling at night. A sukkah is always temporary and stays up about a week. "Many Jewish communities and families put up a shaky little sukkah each year," says Cherilyn Harris, "and it stays up for the weeklong holiday." The dates for the festival may vary up to a month in the fall.

During the observance this year, JRG members hosted students and explained the festival and custom to them. And interested employees were welcomed to the sukkah during the week.

Harris says people most commonly eat a meal in the booth. "What we do during the week is dwell in the booth for a time," she says.

BPA itself got a donation in the past year. Perry Jorgensen retired from the transmission construction branch in 1981 and the crew gave him a miniature 500 kV air blast breaker. Now Jorgensen wanted to donate it to BPA. He reads the *Circuit* and sent an e-mail to ask if we would like to have his model. I checked with transmission and the training center could use it, so TBL followed up.

One of the events that employees like to volunteer for with family members is the Portland Marathon. The fall event can be fun for kids of all ages. See the articles about the 2000 marathon on page 7. This year 22 BPA employees, eight relatives and one retiree worked at the 21st mile aid station sponsored by The Associates.

Volunteers came from all major business lines and groups. Power led the pack with 16 people. They were: Syd Berwager, Jennie Brenden, Don Davey, Kathe Donaldson and husband Chuck, Rita Gill, Kathy Hacker, Gloria Hernandez, Margaret Lewis and son Chauncey, Sheila Riewer, Jenny Roehm, Marta Salazar and great nieces Rebecca and Kathleen, and Andrea Schacher.

Transmission had eight volunteers. They were: Joe Bebee, Thomas Moore, Sandy Simpson and son Jordan, Suzy Sivyver, and Berhanu Tesema and daughter Martha and son Noah. The corporate groups had five volunteers – Doug Browning, Mike Caldwell and daughter Sara, Kristina Rohe and Joseph Sharpe. Tom Hohl was there from Employee and Business Resources, and Allison Draper was the one retiree.

The year-end holidays and holy days do bring out extra efforts by many to share with others. But BPA employees have cases of caring throughout the year. And as any volunteer will affirm, all times are good for giving.

— Jack Odgaard, editor

Circuit

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More than 100 employees attended the Ross Canyon Club fall potluck in mid-November. The pre-Thanksgiving event is a fund raiser for charities that the Vancouver employee group supports. Employees bring favorite dishes and the club provides the baked ham and turkey. Many people who attended also took names and information on children they would buy clothing and gifts for. The Canyon Club holds a Santa party for needy

children from East Vancouver Child Care Center each year before Christmas. (Below) Kathy Baker and Mike Conners from the warehouse replenish the main dishes while folks dish up on the long warehouse serving table (above).

Photos by Jack Odgaard

Photographer correction

The November *Circuit* wrongly listed Sherry Lind as the photographer for the pictures of Henry Fuller on page 3. Laura Williams took the photos and should have been credited.